October 5, 1956

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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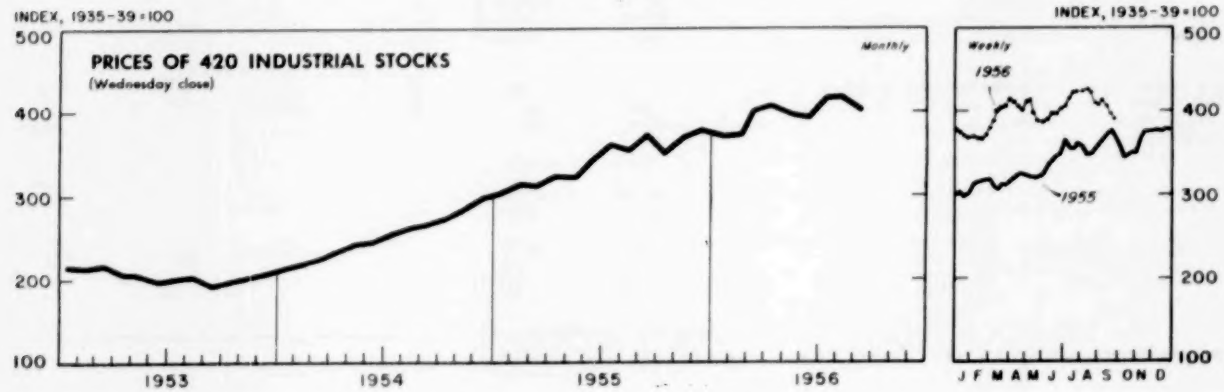
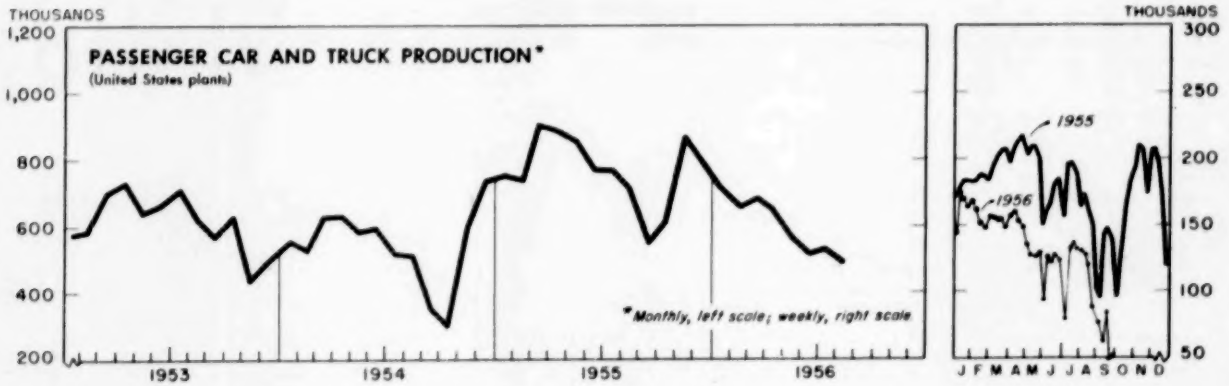
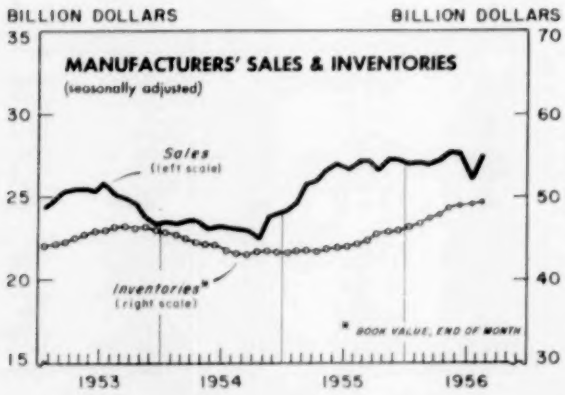
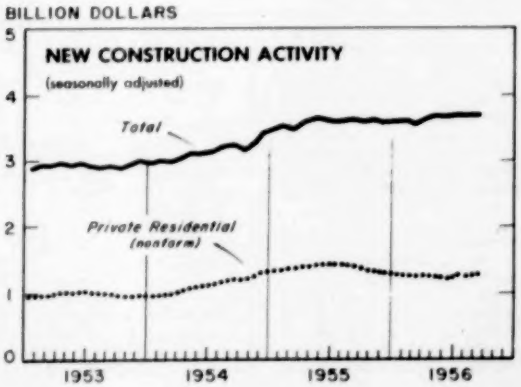
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS









WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Sept. 24	Oct. 1	Sept. 8	Sept. 15	Sept. 22	Sept. 29
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*111.7	114.8	115.1	115.1	115.2
Farm products.....do....	.....	*89.3	89.2	90.2	90.0	89.4
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*101.5	103.6	104.0	103.9	105.0
All other.....do....	.....	*118.5	122.4	122.6	122.6	122.6
22 commodities 2/.....do....	89.6	90.4	90.5	91.2	91.9	91.8
Department store sales.....do....	121	126	112	130	131	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	911	895	1,160	1,102	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	824	813	1,058	1,006	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	30,401	30,323	30,787	30,910	30,810	30,714
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	25,613	25,478	25,454	25,934	25,852	25,694
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	18,767	18,618	18,800	19,088	19,220	18,981
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	576	484	449	717	735	551
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	56,263	56,306	54,920	55,777	55,908	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	21,640	21,631	21,946	22,046	22,009	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	84,516	84,493	85,684	85,868	85,843	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	30,546	30,347	26,501	26,545	26,383	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	24,570	24,940	29,355	29,554	29,694	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,216	7,977	8,747	8,775	8,798	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	171	186	196	203	262	251
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.31	3.31	3.71	3.74	3.76	3.78
Stock prices, 480 stocks (Stand.& Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	328.0	319.1	353.3	346.4	339.7	335.0
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	377.1	366.4	413.6	405.3	396.5	390.9
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,586	1,595	1,746	1,775	1,692	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	10,756	10,627	10,955	11,339	11,482	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	147,195	138,781	62,426	84,426	49,822	50,834
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,671	6,661	7,037	7,049	7,063	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,320	2,341	2,429	2,477	2,477	2,502
Percent of capacity 5/.....	#96.1	#97.0	98.7	100.6	100.6	101.6
Freight carloadings, total 6/.....thous. of cars..	814	820	680	821	822	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	398	400	330	392	397	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning October 1, 1956: Production, 2,495 thous. short tons; operating rate, 101.4 percent. 6/ Data for 1956 adjusted to revised classification of class I railroads. * Monthly index for September 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1955		1956			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS						
Manufacturers' sales:						
Value (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	24,644	27,411	27,830	r27,727	r24,122	27,650
Durable-goods industries, total 1/... .....do....	12,114	13,494	14,069	14,235	r11,304	13,312
Primary metal.....do....	1,875	2,223	2,502	2,571	r1,063	1,856
Fabricated metal.....do....	1,294	1,585	1,441	1,484	r1,271	1,533
Machinery (including electrical).....do....	3,036	3,332	3,957	4,057	r3,487	3,862
Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)..do....	3,342	3,142	3,181	3,119	r2,838	2,867
Lumber and furniture.....do....	1,034	1,344	1,185	1,167	r1,014	1,276
Stone, clay, and glass.....do....	631	744	738	735	r661	757
Nondurable-goods industires, total 1/.....do....	12,530	13,917	13,761	r13,492	r12,818	14,338
Food and beverage.....do....	4,148	4,392	4,322	4,299	r4,077	4,318
Tobacco.....do....	316	360	367	337	r355	368
Textile.....do....	952	1,187	1,046	1,056	r920	1,145
Paper.....do....	776	883	912	889	r794	884
Chemical.....do....	1,753	1,984	2,107	1,991	r1,847	2,054
Petroleum and coal.....do....	2,276	2,382	2,501	2,501	r2,424	2,558
Rubber.....do....	453	470	459	r475	441	.....
Value (adjusted), total.....do....	26,731	27,229	27,814	r27,651	r26,158	27,493
Durable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	13,503	13,745	13,754	13,850	r12,627	13,608
Primary metal.....do....	2,138	2,285	2,472	2,533	r1,224	1,910
Fabricated metal.....do....	1,407	1,510	1,486	1,484	r1,382	1,456
Machinery (including electrical).....do....	3,475	3,484	3,935	3,923	r4,032	4,039
Transportation equipment (incl. motor vehicles)..do....	3,615	3,413	2,972	2,971	r3,058	3,156
Lumber and furniture.....do....	1,198	1,280	1,129	1,155	r1,152	1,226
Stone, clay, and glass.....do....	657	682	716	693	r689	694
Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/.....do....	13,228	13,484	14,060	r13,801	r13,531	13,885
Food and beverage.....do....	4,223	4,291	4,312	4,295	r4,161	4,224
Tobacco.....do....	316	330	346	324	r338	338
Textile.....do....	1,133	1,109	1,125	1,089	r1,082	1,080
Paper.....do....	834	874	931	889	r854	875
Chemical.....do....	1,844	2,001	2,097	2,028	r1,979	2,074
Petroleum and coal.....do....	2,299	2,382	2,633	2,552	r2,448	2,558
Rubber.....do....	471	456	464	r450	459	.....

r/ Revised. 1/ Includes data for "other industries" not shown.

ITEM	1955		1956			
	July	August	May	June	July	August
GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS - Continued						
Manufacturers' inventories, end of month:						
Book value (unadjusted), total....mil. of dol..	43,855	43,945	48,834	r49,284	r49,180	48,994
Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do....	24,574	24,618	28,446	28,521	r28,220	27,956
Primary metal....do....	3,201	3,281	3,658	3,638	r3,704	3,802
Fabricated metal....do....	2,656	2,594	3,037	3,052	r2,943	2,874
Machinery (including electrical)....do....	8,009	7,983	9,655	9,771	r9,652	9,558
Transportation equipment (incl.motor vehicles).do....	5,865	5,953	6,889	6,795	r6,690	6,578
Lumber and furniture....do....	1,773	1,759	1,868	1,870	r1,877	1,845
Stone, clay, and glass....do....	906	896	1,057	1,072	r1,067	1,038
By stages of fabrication:						
Purchased materials....bil. of dol..	6.6	6.8	7.6	7.9	8.0	7.9
Goods in process....do....	10.0	10.0	11.7	11.6	r11.5	11.4
Finished goods....do....	7.9	7.8	9.2	9.0	8.7	8.7
Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/....mil. of dol..	19,281	19,327	20,388	r20,763	r20,960	21,038
Food and beverage....do....	4,221	4,348	4,238	4,337	r4,492	4,628
Tobacco....do....	1,722	1,719	1,829	1,785	r1,749	1,751
Textile....do....	2,422	2,410	2,602	2,618	r2,612	2,646
Paper....do....	1,052	1,046	1,144	1,181	r1,213	1,215
Chemical....do....	3,051	3,047	3,477	3,545	r3,557	3,546
Petroleum and coal....do....	2,753	2,783	2,856	2,924	r3,041	3,084
Rubber....do....	827	811	1,024	r1,004	957	.....
By stages of fabrication:						
Purchased materials....bil. of dol..	7.6	7.6	8.2	8.2	r8.3	8.3
Goods in process....do....	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Finished goods....do....	8.7	8.7	9.1	r9.4	r9.5	9.7
Book value (adjusted), total....mil. of dol..	43,938	44,315	48,566	r49,080	r49,238	49,422
Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do....	24,563	24,768	28,123	28,174	r28,179	28,129
Primary metal....do....	3,197	3,259	3,770	3,718	r3,698	3,776
Fabricated metal....do....	2,604	2,620	2,920	2,907	r2,885	2,903
Machinery (including electrical)....do....	8,010	8,069	9,523	9,563	r9,654	9,662
Transportation equipment (incl.motor vehicles).do....	5,905	5,990	6,830	6,755	r6,730	6,618
Lumber and furniture....do....	1,755	1,742	1,850	1,870	r1,858	1,827
Stone, clay, and glass....do....	906	914	1,036	1,061	r1,067	1,059
By stages of fabrication:						
Purchased materials....bil. of dol..	6.6	6.7	7.8	8.0	7.9	7.9
Goods in process....do....	10.1	10.1	11.6	11.5	r11.6	11.5
Finished goods....do....	7.8	8.0	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.7
Nondurable-goods industries, total 1/....mil. of dol..	19,375	19,547	20,443	r20,906	r21,059	21,293
Food and beverage....do....	4,358	4,374	4,467	4,587	r4,634	4,655
Tobacco....do....	1,832	1,829	1,866	1,879	r1,861	1,863
Textile....do....	2,398	2,434	2,526	2,618	r2,586	2,673
Paper....do....	1,063	1,078	1,144	1,181	r1,225	1,253
Chemical....do....	3,039	3,112	3,479	3,512	r3,540	3,618
Petroleum and coal....do....	2,753	2,755	2,828	2,953	r3,041	3,053
Rubber....do....	853	863	985	r975	987	.....
By stages of fabrication:						
Purchased materials....bil. of dol..	7.8	7.9	8.3	8.4	r8.5	8.6
Goods in process....do....	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.1
Finished goods....do....	8.6	8.6	9.1	r9.3	9.5	9.6
Manufacturers' orders:						
New orders, net (unadjusted), total....mil. of dol..	26,100	28,443	27,945	r28,796	r25,936	29,042
Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do....	13,347	14,580	14,223	15,236	r13,143	14,867
Primary metal....do....	2,316	2,559	2,488	2,180	r2,014	2,131
Fabricated metal....do....	1,445	1,686	1,492	1,401	r1,366	1,520
Machinery (including electrical)....do....	3,639	3,698	4,187	4,613	r4,007	4,003
Transportation equipment (incl.motor vehicles)...do....	3,234	3,191	3,052	3,842	r3,001	4,132
Nondurable-goods industries....do....	12,753	13,863	13,722	r13,560	r12,793	14,175
New orders, net (adjusted), total....do....	27,044	28,718	28,803	r27,883	r26,998	28,956
Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do....	13,571	15,145	14,732	14,185	r13,513	15,106
Primary metal....do....	2,339	2,611	2,392	2,319	r2,166	2,174
Fabricated metal....do....	1,445	1,606	1,538	1,334	r1,366	1,381
Machinery (including electrical)....do....	3,656	3,833	4,460	4,311	r4,140	4,153
Transportation equipment (incl.motor vehicles)...do....	3,334	3,844	3,213	3,202	r3,001	4,491
Nondurable-goods industries, total....do....	13,473	13,573	14,071	r13,698	r13,485	13,850
Unfilled orders, end of month (unadjusted), total....do....	50,777	51,809	57,525	58,594	r60,408	61,800
Durable-goods industries, total 1/....do....	47,299	48,385	54,678	55,679	r57,518	59,073
Primary metal....do....	6,297	6,633	7,026	6,635	r7,586	7,861
Fabricated metal....do....	3,760	3,861	4,513	4,430	r4,525	4,512
Machinery (including electrical)....do....	14,339	14,705	17,725	18,281	r18,801	18,942
Transportation equipment (incl.motor vehicles)...do....	18,311	18,360	20,790	21,473	r21,636	22,901
Nondurable-goods industries, total....do....	3,478	3,424	2,847	2,915	r2,890	2,727
DOMESTIC TRADE						
Printers' ink advertising index, adjusted:						
Combined index....1947-49=100..	185	190	199	192	204	.....
Business papers....do....	163	177	184	181	184	.....
Magazines....do....	142	149	157	152	161	.....
Newspapers....do....	186	199	201	183	202	.....
Outdoor....do....	153	144	165	157	152	.....
Radio (network)....do....	48	46	36	38	33	.....
Television (network)....1950-52=100..	342	316	351	357	392	.....

r/ Revised. 1/ Includes data for "other industries" not shown.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS — Continued

ITEM	1955		1956			
	August	September	June	July	August	September
COMMODITY PRICES						
Prices received and paid by farmers:						
Prices received, all farm products.....1910-14=100..	232	235	247	244	237	236
Crops.....do....	228	229	263	258	236	234
Commercial vegetables, fresh market.....do....	208	224	310	286	230	178
Cotton.....do....	277	285	273	274	263	275
Feed grains and hay.....do....	178	174	192	194	197	196
Food grains.....do....	214	217	218	216	218	222
Fruit.....do....	208	212	266	225	210	235
Oil-bearing crops.....do....	246	225	259	250	249	234
Potatoes 1/.....do....	145	129	338	387	203	161
Tobacco.....do....	r437	427	453	453	451	455
Livestock and products.....do....	236	240	232	232	238	238
Dairy products.....do....	249	257	247	253	256	264
Meat animals.....do....	251	249	252	246	259	254
Poultry and eggs.....do....	191	203	171	174	171	172
Wool.....do....	240	234	231	233	232	231
Prices paid:						
All commodities and services.....do....	261	259	264	266	267	266
Family living items.....do....	273	272	280	282	281	279
Production items.....do....	247	246	248	248	250	252
All commodities, services, interest, taxes, and wage rates.....do....	280	279	286	287	288	287
Parity ratio.....do....	83	84	86	85	82	82
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
New construction (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	4,205	4,148	4,008	r4,213	r4,279	4,267
Private, total.....do....	2,893	2,879	2,730	r2,849	r2,862	2,840
Residential (nonfarm).....do....	1,587	1,561	1,362	r1,430	r1,422	1,416
New dwelling units.....do....	1,435	1,410	1,180	r1,245	r1,240	1,235
Additions and alterations.....do....	119	119	142	142	140	140
Nonresidential building, total 2/.....do....	686	714	759	786	786	784
Industrial.....do....	205	213	261	268	273	273
Commercial.....do....	286	303	290	301	294	289
Farm construction.....do....	172	159	150	159	161	148
Public utility.....do....	434	433	448	462	481	480
Public, total.....do....	1,312	1,269	1,278	r1,364	r1,417	1,427
Nonresidential building.....do....	380	374	357	381	r390	383
Military facilities.....do....	131	136	127	r133	r143	148
Highway.....do....	569	533	535	575	r600	615
New construction (seasonally adjusted), total.....do....	3,638	3,623	3,678	r3,708	r3,707	3,707
Private, total.....do....	2,620	2,629	2,555	r2,605	r2,598	2,593
Residential (nonfarm).....do....	1,433	1,422	1,250	r1,288	r1,281	1,287
Nonresidential building, total 2/.....do....	658	679	748	758	756	746
Farm construction.....do....	132	132	125	125	124	123
Public utility.....do....	385	384	423	424	426	425
Public, total.....do....	1,018	994	1,123	r1,103	1,109	1,114
Nonresidential building.....do....	335	339	340	340	r345	348
Construction cost index:						
Department of Commerce composite.....1947-49=100..	125.7	126.3	130.8	131.3	132.1	.....

r/ Revised. 1/ Includes sweet potatoes and dry edible beans.
2/ Data.

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